implementation. The progress is being monitored closely.

Implementation of recommendations of Wage Board by Newspaper Managements

*119. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has recently been undertaken by Government to find out the number of such newspaper managements who are dithering in the implementation of the Award/Recommendations made by the Bachawat Wage Board; and

(b) if so, the number of such managements and action taken or proposed to be taken by Government against such establishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) As per the latest information available from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, out of 1670 newspaper establishments, so far 556 managements have fully implemented the Bharhawat Wage Boards recommendations. Another 49 have reportedly partially implemented the recommendations. The State Governments have been addressed from time to time to take appropriate steps to ensure implementation of the recommendation of the Bachawat Wage Boards.

23 writ petitions are also presently filed in the Supreme Court by the newspaper managements, challenging the recommendations of the Bachawat Wage Boards and the notifications issued by the Government regarding these recommendations. The Supreme Court in their interim order dated 30.1.90 had odered that no prosecution shall be launched till the petitions are disposed of. The matter continues to be subjudice.

In respect of offences under the Working journalists & Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 the roncerned persons, can also the complaints in court against the establishment concerned of Act.

The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations were requested to intimate the total number of complaints/claims filed before the competent authority for non-payment/less payment of the allowances as per Bachawat Wage Boards recommendations. The State Governments of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry have replied that no such complaint/claim are pending with them. Other States have not sent any reply in this regard.

Meeting of Civil Supplies Ministers of States on PDS

*120. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister had a meeting with the Civil Supplies Ministers of various States on 3rd October, 1991, to take stock of the steps taken for extension of Public Distribution System to the designated remote and tribal areas;

(b) if so, the States which were represented at the meeting and what were the designated remote and tribal areas considered for Public Distribution System; and

(c) whether any drawbacks in the working of the system were noted at the meeting, if so, the steps taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister had a meeting with the Civil Supplies Ministers of various States on 3rd October, 1991 to take stock of the steps taken on implementing the decisions taken in the 13th Meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System held in August, 1991 to

strongthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) in areas covered by Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Draught Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and certain Designated Hill Areas (DHA). Representatives of all States and almost all U.T.s were present at the meeting.

Ministers from many States demanded higher allocations of PDS commodities. They also demanded resumption of supplies of imported edible oils under the PDS. Allocation of PDS commodities to various States are made considering factors like demand from States, availability in the Central Pool, etc. and imports of edible oil made. Government has since decided to import about 1,50,000 tonnes of Palmolein for distribution under PDS. Ministers of some States demanded improvement in timely availability of stocks from Food Corporation of India depots. There was also a demand for increased assistance from the Central Government for various measures to improve the PDS. The Central Government already incurs a huge expenditure in procuring, storing, transporting and delivering the PDS commodities to the State Governments/ U.T. Administrations. Central Government also has ongoing schemes to assist State Governments/U.T. Administrations for purchase of mobile vans, and for setting up of godowns in certain States.

Proposals by Indian Rare Earths Limited

638. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Rare Earths Limited has submitted proposals to open up new minerals sand deposits in Tamil Nadu for making value added products; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir. Preliminarf studies are under waf to exploit the mineral deposits occuring at Kudiraimozhi, V. O. Chidambaranar District, Tamil Nadu.

(b) Does not arise.

Nuclear Power Station in Andhra Pradesh

639. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to set up some nuclear power stations in the State to augment its power resources;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard and any site selected for the purpose in the State; and

(c) if so, the details of the sites selected and plans, if any, drawn up for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No decision has so far been taken by Government of India on locating a nuclear power plant in Andhra Pradesh. However, preliminary/ exploratory investigations of sites in Andhra Pradesh have been carried out. The selection of sites for nuclear power plants will have to undergo various stages of review and appraisal. This process is under way at present.

Early Clearance to Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant

640. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the III and IV units of Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant, are yet to receive environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken for early clearance?